FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 MAY 1986

Lebanon

A car-bomb exploded in the Sinn al-Fil area of East Beirut 23 May, killing 6 people and wounding 85 others, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. An anonymous caller told the radio that the "Southern Suburb Martyrs" were responsible for the explosion. The blast in the Christiadeclared that his visit to France follows the emergence of "good impulses" in French policy after the present French Government's election, and divulged that Iran will dispatch a "high-ranking" delegation to France to attempt to resolve the problems obstructing a normalization of ties.

Iran-Iraq War

An official Iraqi military source told INA that Iranian allegations of clashes in the Faqqeh area are "cheap lies," asserting that "no battles" have taken place in that area since Iraq captured new positions there recently. However, a military communique cited by Tehran radio affirmed that Iranian forces have forced the enemy to flee from the Faqqeh area to Iraqi territory, inflicting over 2,000 casualties in the process.

In other action, an Iraqi communique carried by INA claimed that Iraq's V Army destroyed seven Iranian regiments in offensive operations in the mountainous northern sector. Iranian warplanes bombed Iraqi positions in the Mehran area, according to an Iranian communique cited by IRNA. A Tehran radio radio commentary claimed that Egyptian and Jordanian army units participated in the Iraqi attack on Mehran, berating Jordan and Egypt as "U.S. puppet regimes" which are spearheading Arab reaction.

Syria-Saudi Arabia

Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Saudi King Fahd during a 1-day visit to the Kingdom, SPA reported.

Qatar-Bahrain

In a statement to the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* reported by KUNA, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah announced that Kuwait will send three military observers to supervise the implementation of the agreement between Qatar and Bahrain regarding the Fasht al-Dibal dispute.

DRA

CPSU Central Committee Secretary Anatoliy Dobrynin revealed that a timetable for the "phased withdrawal" of Soviet troops from the DRA has already been signed with the DRA, in an interview with the Prague paper *RUDE PRAVO* cited by Kabul radio, and he emphasized that the USSR desires to withdraw its troops from the DRA in the "near future." BAKHTAR reported that 524 "deceived persons" surrendered to the authorities in Jawzjan Province.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Dobrynin Writes on Phased Soviet Withdrawal

LD222247 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 May 86

[Excerpt] Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, writes in the Prague newspaper *RUDΣ PRAVO* that the Soviet Union completely and strongly supports the efforts of the DRA Government in defending the revolutionary values of the people of Afghanistan and in the revolutionary consolidation of the state's sovereignty.

Dobrynin adds: The Soviet Union hopes talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, conducted under UN auspices and now in a critical phase, will be successful. We are trying to bring about a political solution that could guarantee the true cessation of armed interference and other types of intervention. The Soviet Union wants in the near future to withdraw its troops from the DRA, which are there at the request of the government of that country. A timetable for the phased withdrawal of these troops has been already signed with the Afghan side, Dobrynin said.

U.S. Foiling Search for Political Solution

LD230735 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 22, BAKHTAR — The provision of favourable conditions enabling the people of Afghanistan to construct a new life in peace and security constitute the major object of the foreign policy pursued by the DRA, writes a BAKHTAR commentator quoting Comrade Najibullah from his interview with TASS correspondent.

The victorious April Revolution of 1978 was launched by the PDPA in order to build a new and progressive Afghanistan. However, the PDPA's policy did not suit Reagan's administration and therefore, it waged the undeclared war against the DRA.

Presently, Reagan's administration has further intensified the undeclared war by putting at the disposal of the Afghan counter-revolution the most modern anti-aircraft Stinger missiles, the commentator stressed.

The DRA is making all out efforts for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and it is the Washington administration which does not allow the regional conflicts to be ended. The DRA is waiting for a positive result from the on-going Geneva talks as it has repeatedly expressed its goodwill for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

Presently, the progressive and political circles of Pakistan and Iran call upon their governments to stop its anti-Afghan policy and not to allow the Afghan counter-revolution to use their territories against the DRA for subversion and bloodsheds. But the bellicose regimes of Pakistan and Iran not only do not listen to the wishes of their people but play their role in the interest of U.S. imperialism.

The crux of the matter is that the U.S. imperialism and its regional allies do not want peaceful conditions to prevail, enabling the Afghan people to build a new life for themselves.

Najibullah Urges Economic Struggle, End to Red-Tape

LD221542 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 21, BAKHTAR — The realisation of the main directions of socio-economic development of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan constitutes the major means of expanding and consolidating the pillars of the social sovereignty of the people. This was said by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA, CC) at the session of the party activists of the units of the Ministry of Interior of the DRA.

Comrade Najibullah went on to say that in the present conditions paying attention to social justice and struggling for economic stability are particularly important. Employees of the ministry, Comrade Najibullah went on to say should erect a strong barrier against the embezzlement of public funds and properties. The people who encroach upon revolutionary legality, should not be spared at all.

The officers of Sarandoy (People's Police) carry more importance them any other employees of the state, as they are defending the people against the counter-revolutionaries, preserve social life and order, protect the health and wealth of the people against criminal inroads, Comrade Najibollah said.

The employees of the Ministry of Interior should become a good example of doing away with bureaucracy and red-tapism, Comrade Najibullah stressed.

At the begining of the session Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy read the fundamental report concerning the strengthening of the pillars of state power and elimination of the counter-revolutionary elements from the country.

Propaganda Drive Seeks To Sow Discord in PDPA

LD221546 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 21, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes: Recently the imperialist propaganda apparatus systematically disseminated false information about Afghanistan, in particular Kabul city.

The empty and mendacious propaganda, which is part of the psychological warfare against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, is indicative of the sinister intentions of the enemies of Afghanistan. These are provocations and deductions aimed at sowing discord in Afghanistan and implementation of the filthy conspiracies of their organisers with portraying of such false picture of Afghanistan, in particular Kabul. They intend to inculcate discord and aspersions in the ranks of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. The picture that they are attempting to portray from the situation in Kabul, Qandahar, Jalalabad and other provinces of the country are totally devoid of fact and will never be materialised.

One of the usual methods of the imperialistic propaganda apparatus is to make use of the natural developments in this or that country as a fuel for the running of its propaganda apparatus and attaining of its filthy aims. The late unbridled propaganda tirade

of the imperialistic propaganda apparatus against Afghanistan is a clear example of the treacherous conspiracies and forgeries of world imperialism.

Imperialism wants to establish a link between its recent propaganda against Afghanistan and the resolutions of the 18th Plenum of the Central Committee of the PDPA. They want to confuse the world public opinion and to inculcate among them a distorted view of the real situation in the country. On the other hand with the staging of treacherous provocations, they want to put into practice their nefarious intentions inside Afghanistan.

Contrary to the false propaganda of the imperialists, Afghanistan witnessed the holding of plenums of party provincial committees. The resolutions of the 18th Plenum of the PDPA CC were unanimously supported by the party plenums throughout the country. Furthermore, the intentions of the organisers of the propaganda canard against Afghanistan are easily understandable. At present, the 7th round of talks between the DRA and Pakistan for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan are continuing and imperialism is bent upon torpedoing all the possibilities of reaching a political solution to the problem. However, the DRA with complete readiness for the political solution of the issues, will spare no effort for the success of the talks and such propaganda can not disrupt its intention.

Another aim of the recent propaganda is to divert the attention of the world public from the ever increasing unrest in Pakistan and the trembling pillars of the ruling regime of Pakistan as well as the incessant defeats of the Afghan counter-revolutionaries inside the country.

Politburo Assesses Constitution 'Work Process'
LD222114 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] A routine session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo has been held. The work process of the DRA draft constitution was assessed and specific instructions were issued to the DRA Draft Constitution Commission.

The Politburo also assessed the results of discussions held by the broad plenums of the provincial party committees, and the decisions of the PDPA Central Committee's 17th and 18th Plenums. It was (?concluded) by the Politburo that the convocation of work plenums of the provincial party committees and the organs of the Armed Forces displays their struggle toward the unity of the party around the Central Committee, the unity of the party ranks, the enhancement of the level of discipline, the political vigilance of their members and the realization of the aims of the April Revolution.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo also heard a report of the second nationwide session of the secretaries of the DRA Army party organizations. It was pointed out that raising the professional skill and political maturity of the troops and officers, their combat morale and further strengthening the Armed Forces with the people, are the immediate tasks of the Armed Forces command and political staff.

The Politburo evaluated the proposals and requests of a number of the state employees, workers, peasants and members of the Armed Forces that had been put forward during the meetings of Politburo members with the people in Kabul and the provinces.

A commission was instructed in this regard to prepare necessary documents concerning the roots of social [word indistinct], family and the role of the party and state approach in furthering the recruitment of youths so all patriotic youths could take an active part in this patriotic duty.

The Politburo heard a report by Comrade Dr Anahita Ratebzad, president of the DRA Peace, Friendship and Solidarity Organization and Politburo member, on her participation at the WPC [World Peace Council] meeting.

The session considered as positive the results achieved through the participation of the DRA delegation and its activity.

The Politburo also assessed some matters related to the improvement of work among the tribes and ethnic groups of the country and the improvement of attention to the betterment of the life of the toilers, and took necessary measures.

Measures Passed With Karmal's Approval
LD222206 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] After approval by Comrade Babrak Karmal, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, Presidium Decree No 107, dated 26 November 1985, concerning the seals of the executive committees of the jirgas and councils of major districts, subdistricts, villages and city wards; and Decree No 18 of 1985-86 concerning the DRA law of citizenship, were published in the official gazette, issues 605 and 606 of the current year.

Also approved by the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, the bill on the utilization and safeguarding of the seals of the executive committees of the local jirgas and councils; the bill on the use of electric energy in the DRA; and the charter of Qandahar wool textile enterprise, were published in issue 107 of the official gazette.

Continuing Reportage on Unrest Incidents in Punjab

10 Killed, 4 Injured

BK220333 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] In Punjab 10 persons were killed and 4 injured when some suspected terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in Krishnan Nagar area in Amritsar last night. Police and paramilitary forces immediatly cordoned off the area and lauched a massive hunt for the culprints.

In another incident, one person was killed when some unidentified gunmen fired at him in village Harpura near (Shri Hargovindpur) in Gurdaspur District last evening.

Bomb Thrown at Hindu Temple

BK221246 Hong Kong AFP in English 1240 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, May 22 (AFP) — Suspected Sikh separatists bombed a Hindu temple here Thursday after 11 people had been killed in two separate shootings in the Punjab Wednesday, police and eyewitnesses said. A crude bomb was hurled at the Durgayana temple here sparking anger among the Hindus, India's religious majority, but a minority in this northern state, eyewitnesses said. No casualties were reported.

On Wednesday, suspected Sikh separatist groups shot dead 11 people in two separate sten gun attacks here and in the adjoining Gurdashpur District, police said Thursday.

Assailants came on foot and opened fire at Hindu traders killing 10 people on the city's outskirts. In the Gurdaspur incident, a suspected Sikh separatist group shot dead one person, police said. The killings triggered a massive hunt by police and paramilitary forces, but no arrests were reported.

Punjab Cheif Minister, Surjit Singh Barnala, arrived here from New Delhi to review the situation after Wednesday's slayings. He said the killings were a "planned action to frighten" Hindus so that they would flee the state. The PRESS TRUST of INDIA said Mr. Barnala had not ruled out the possibility of the army playing a role in attempts to curb Sikh militancy.

Reportage on Visit of SWAPO President Nujoma

Receives Ceremonial Welcome

BK221146 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] The president of the South West African People's Organization — SWAPO — Mr Sam Nujoma, who arrived in New Delhi today, has pledged to intensify the liberation struggle in Namibia both at the military and political fronts. Referring to the recent air attacks on three Frontline States by the Pretoria regime, he said a war is being deliberately imposed on the people in southwest Africa through these barbaric acts.

Mr Nujoma, who is on a 6-day visit to the country, was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, his cabinet colleagues, members of diplomatic corps, and other diginitaries. Our correspondent reports that Mr Nujoma was given a ceremonial welcome which is accorded to a head of government. A guard of honor by the three contingents of Armed Forces was given to him.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the SWAPO leader said that the honor of the ceremonial welcome which he received for the first time is indeed an honor done to the Namibian people. He expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the people of India for concrete material assistance and political and diplomatic support to the Namibian people.

Mr Nujoma said that the dastardly act perpetuated by the Pretoria regime on Frontline States is prompted by its perpetual fears. These fears are its own creation, as the racist regime is denying fundamental human rights to the African majority in Namibia and South Africa. The Botha regime feels that the Namibian people are being influenced from [as heard] the Frontline States. However, it forgets that the oppressed people have no other alternative but to resist the oppression.

The SWAPO leader during his stay in the capital is expected to have extensive discussions with the prime minister and other leaders on the developments in southern Africa. He will inaugurate the SWAPO chancery in New Delhi on Saturday. He will also take part in the Africa Day function on Sunday.

Holds Talks With Gandhi

BK221621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] The visiting president of the South West African People's Organization — SWAPO — Mr Sam Nujoma, and Mr Rajiv Gandhi today discussed South Africa's dealings with its neighbors and the latest situation in this region. He also exchanged views on the recent visit of the commonwealth eminent persons group to that country and the Namibia situation.

In the course of a 90-minute meeting, Mr Rajiv Gandhi briefed Mr Nujoma on recent trip to Africa's Frontline States. He reiterated India's full support to the Namibian freedom struggle.

Mr Nujoma referred to the stalemate in implementing the UN Security Council's resolution on Namibia. He discussed with Mr Gandhi the steps that the Nonaligned Movement would take to raise the matter forcefully at the United Nations and elsewhere, especially in the context of the coming nonaligned summit in Harare. Among other subjects, the two leaders discussed the formal opening of the SWAPO chancery in New Delhi by Mr Nujoma on Saturday.

Mr Nujoma also called on the vice president, Mr R. Venketaraman, at his residence. Mr Rajiv Gandhi is hosting a dinner in honor of Mr Nujoma tonight.

Visit by South African Legislators Banned

BK211619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] India has decided to ban the entry of members of the colored and Asian legislators of South Africa, which formed part of the so-called constitutional reforms introduced by the racist regime in 1984. A government press release in New Delhi says this has been done as a measures of India's sympathy and support for all those struggling for an equitable and democratic regime in South Africa.

The press release points out that these legislators do not represent the colored or Asian communities in South Africa. Their participation in the sham exercise only serves to divide and weaken the struggle against apartheid.

It may be recalled that the South African regime introduced a tricameral legislature as part of the so-called constitutional reforms. These reforms totally excluded the majority from any form of political participation.

UN Supervisory Role in Afghanistan Proposed

BK220220 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Pakistan is reported to have proposed a supervisory role for the United Nations to ensure against any infringement or violation of the predicted agreement on the future of Afghanistan now being negotiated in Geneva.

APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS of PAKISTAN], quoting informed diplomatic sources, says the seventh round of indirect talks between Pakistan and the Kabul regime, now nearing the third week of almost continuous discussions, had drifted toward considerable uncertainty because of insistency by Kabul representatives that the implementation and supervision of the proposed agreement should be left to the two concerned countries.

Pakistan is understood to have described Kabul's situation as totally impractical and untenable and stressed that a third party supervising the authority was essential to settle disputes which might crop up during the period the projected agreement was being actually implemented. Pakistan says since the proposed agreement is being worked out under the aegis of the United Nations it would be better if the world body was also entrusted with the task of implementing this agreement.

The agency, quoting diplomatic observers, says the new hitch created by the representatives of the Kabul regime had fully established as to how harmful it would have been to Pakistan if Kabul's insistence on direct talks would have been acceded to. Support from securing the much fought for legitimacy for its role in the direct talks would have also enabled the Kabul regime to play all shots in accordance with their liking.

In spite of the very best efforts of the United Nation's mediator, Mr Diego Cordovez, the foreign minister of the Kabul regime has reportedly refused to discuss the much awaited timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops unless all the (?ground rules) for this discussion as laid out in the draft of the fourth instrument have been fully worked out by the two sides.

The current indirect talks, in the meantime, have remained suspended for the past 24 hours, indicating that differences between the two sides on certain principles of the fourth instrument were persisting.

Mr Cordovez, who had yesterday morning visited Pakistan's permanent mission for a private meeting with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, came back late in the evening for another meeting. He again visited the Pakistan mission this morning to continue his intensive informal discussions with the Pakistan foreign minister. He is reported to have held similar meetings with the foreign minister of the Kabul regime. Mr Cordovez was expected to hold formal meetings separately with the full delegations of Pakistan and Kabul regime later tonight.

A spokesman of the Pakistan delegation (?confirmed) that so far no firm negotiations on the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan had taken place. He said only a preliminary discussion on this topic had taken place between Pakistan's foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and Mr Cordovez.

PRC Delegation Meets National Assembly Speaker

BK220353 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] The Chinese good-will delegation met the National Assembly speaker, Syed Fakr Imam, in Islamabad yesterday.

The vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress, Fu Hao, who is the leader of the delegation, said the border of Pakistan and China is a border of peace, friendship, and cooperation.

BANGLADESH

Doctors Defy Government Order To Return To Work

BK210604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, doctors of eight medical colleges have defied a government order to end their indefinite strike.

About 3,000 doctors are on strike for higher wages and more jobs.

The government has issued an ultimatum on Saturday [17 May] giving the doctors 71 hours to return to work or face legal action.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene To Meet Indian High Commissioner

BK221135 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] President Jayewardene is to speak to the Indian high commissioner to clear up any misunderstanding relating to the current situation in the north. The Cabinet yesterday discussed certain statements made in New Delhi on the recent events in Jaffna.

Cabinet Spokesman Dr Ananda Tissa de Alwis briefing newsmen said that the minister of national security had explained that the terrorists were probably misreporting what is taking place in Jaffna.

Continuing Reportage on Tamil Situation, Incidents

'Terrorists' Open Eastern Flank

BK221133 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] The northern terrorists under heavy military pressure in thier Jaffna strongholds earlier this week, were yesterday believed to be attempting renewed activity on the eastern flank in a possible effort to divert troops.

Three separate incidents were reported in Colombo yesterday — the killing of three soldiers in the Ampara district, the murder of several Sinhalese recently abducted from (Morowewa), and the blowing up of the plant in Tokyo cement factory in Trincomalee.

The National Security Ministry said the 3 soldiers had been killed and 4 more were injured when their detachment was attacked by about 100 strong terrorist band at (Tiriokulimale) in the Ampara District early yesterday.

A ministry spokesman also said that nine civilians, including four women, who were abducted at (Morowewa) some days ago had been killed.

TULF Leader Urges Action by India

NC221944 Paris AFP in English 1940 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Madras, India, May 22 (AFP) — The leader of Sri Lanka's biggest Tamil moderate party Thursday urged immediate action by India to stop a new offensive against Tamils in northern Sri Lanka. "Immediate action by India is the only way to stop killings of Tamils in the island," A. Amirthalingam, secretary general of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here.

"India can exert greater pressure either by itself or through international organisations or by any other means to stop this genocide," Mr. Amirthalingam said. He was referring to five days of fierce fighting between Sri Lankan troops and Tamil militants in the Jaffna Peninsula which has left at least 34 people dead and 75 wounded, according to reports from Jaffna residents. Mr. Amrithalingam said that more than 100 civilians had been killed since the fighting started Saturday.

Tamil militants in this southern Indian city — supported by the 50 million ethnic Tamils in India — have described the army operation as the "final offensive" against Tamils in Jaffna, but the Sri Lankan Government has denied press reports of aerial bombing and civilian deaths. Mr. Amirthalingam said the Sri Lankan denial was an "outrageous falsehood." "We have incontrovertible proof that the Sri Lanka Air Force bombed the hospital in Jaffna on three consecutive days, destroying five wards and a number of shops and business establishments in the vicinity," he added. "The attack on civilians has clearly demonstrated that the Sri Lankan Government is determined to suppress, subjugate and annihilate Tamils."

Militants among Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority are campaigning for greater autonomy in the north and east of the country, alleging discrimination by the Sinhalese majority. India has been acting as mediator in negotiations to try to bring about a political solution to the problem.

TULF Criticizes LTTE

BK221137 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] The leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF], A. Amirthalingam, has castigated the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] for acting most cruelly and turning against its own brothers in Sri Lanka. The statement was made by Mr Amirthalingam in [words indistinct]. It was his personal view that the militants must learn from experience that their action will not help, what he referred to, as a Tamil cause. He said that the crisis between the LTTE and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] had enabled the army to move with greater (?ease) along Jaffna, whereas previously [words indistinct].

The statement says that the TULF would consider any suggestion from India, giving the Indian Government the authority to be a negotiator for the Tamils in the search for a quick solution to the problems in Sri Lanka. However, Mr Amirthalingam said that the TULF Politburo will have to ratify the stand, although it will be considered (?favorably).

87 Killed, 200 Injured in Jaffna

BK230915 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka at least 87 people, mostly civilians, have died so far and 200 injured since the security forces launched their multi-pronged offensive last Saturday on Jaffna Peninsula.

At least five civilians were killed in strafing and bombing last night and four fishermen perished in helicopter fire off the coast of Jaffna. Helicopters strafed at least five towns in the peninsula since last evening.

Civilian traffic to and from the peninsula has almost come to a standstill and it is on the verge of virtual siege.

Severe food shortage has been reported from the group of seven islands including Kayts and Nayinativu off the Jaffna coast.

As civilian casualties and the sufferings mounted with an undeclared war in the peninsula reaching its 7th day today, pitched battles were reported from many sectors between the security forces and the militants.

Elephant Pass and the Kayts sectors reported heavy battle, while other reports indicate that the security forces column is working its way toward Point Pedro along the coast under air cover.

More Air Attacks in Jaffna

BK221609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, violence engulfed Jaffna Peninsula again today as 8 civilians, including 2 women and 2 children, were killed and 10 injured when two Air Force planes and four helicopters bombed and strafed two fishing villages near Point Pedro this morning. A minibus carrying passengers was almost directly hit and four persons died on the spot.

Helicopter strafing continued in Jaffna town where seven injured were admitted to hospital.

Fierce battle continued at (Kaptaikadu), 8 miles north of Elephant Pass, between the security forces and the militants as a 500-strong Army column tried to make its way northward.

The security forces were also seen ferrying men from Jaffna Port toward Mullaitivu in an apparent attempt to establish a camp somewhere there. They have also taken over an aluminum factory at (Allaipatty), 3½ miles from Jaffna port, and are being opposed by the militants.

Kayts, Nayinativu, and other four islands of the peninsula have been cut off from the mainland since the past 6 days because of military occupation. People are starving there for want of provisions.

So far at least 75 people, majority of them civilians, have perished in the operation which started on Saturday last.

Bombing of Jaffna Continues

BK230334 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Reports from Sri Lanka say Jaffna was again subjected to aerial attacks last night. The bombing was accompanied by intense shelling from the Jaffna Fort.

According to the residents of the area, the bombing was indiscriminate, and thickly populated parts were strafed. The attack continued for about 1½ hours. They told our correspondent that it is not possible to estimate immediately the casualties or the damage. However, a part of the building of a Jaffna Tamil daily (*?EELAMNADU*) has been damaged.

Meanwhile, the Velvettiturai citizens committee and the Point Pedro citizens committee have complained to the government agents in their areas about the aerial attacks and naval shelling.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Meeting

LD231234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] On the eve of International Jerusalem Day, the religious-political Friday prayer ceremonies were observed today in most parts of the country with the participation of millions of our Muslim compatriots. Our correspondents report from various parts of the country that the participants in the Friday prayers shouted the slogan "war, war till victory!" and demanded that the battle with the aggressive enemy be continued until the achievement of final victory.

The report says that the citizens of Tehran with their presence at Tehran University and the neighboring thoroughfares also performed the Friday prayers ceremonies under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. At today's Tehran Friday prayers Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Khamene'i described the conquest of Khorramshahr and of Al-Faw in Iraq.

Drawing a parallel between two important events of the imposed war he said: These two events are similar in many ways because, when our combatants liberated Khorramshshr and captured more than 15,000 Iraqi troops, the world could not believe it. Now that the selfless warriors of the army of Islam have courageously crossed the Shatt al-'Arab and delivered such a bewildering blow against the Iraqi regime the world is stunned and bewildered by it. But both events reflect the moral and military weakness of the Iraqi forces; the Iraqi leaders' hand has become known to their backers with those two events; and the world has now realized that the Iraqi regime is a liar and that power rests with the Islamic forces.

The Friday imam of Tehran went on: After realizing that despite bringing enormous pressure to bear by land, sea and air the Iraqis could achieve nothing, could not break the solid line of our combatants in Al-Faw or drive them back, they thought it would be better to leave Al-Faw alone for a while and to think of something else. So they selected three sectors of the battlefield so that, with a lot of empty propaganda and ballyhoo, they could relieve their anxious backers.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council then described the positions in Faqqeh, Mehran and Hajj 'Umran. He said: Having gathered a large force the Iraqis went on the rampage in the Faqqeh region in an effort to capture the heights there. But right at the very first stage they suffered a severe blow in terms of equipment and were forced to retreat, leaving behind a large quantity of equipment, for which they had spent enormous amounts of money, as they fled in the face of the forces of Islam. In the Mehran region, with the plans they had devised, they were able to advance a few steps and capture the Mehran plain. But from the military standpoint the plain is worthless without the heights. Their plan to capture the heights failed, and the latest reports say that the Iraqi forces have now retreated even from the plain.

The Friday imam of Tehran went on: In the Hajj 'Umran region, too, where the Iraqi regime was using all its power in an effort to advance, it failed totally. The large number of Iraqi helicopters shot down proves the importance of the region. Here, too, Iraq was forced to retreat, suffering great losses in equipment and in numbersof dead and wounded and troops taken prisoner. This very day some 70 Iraqi servicemen and officers sought asylum and thus delivered themselves from Saddam's wickedness.

The president then turned to propaganda put about by the Iraqi regime and global arrogance. About exchanging Al-Faw for Mehran, he said: This is the most laughable thing that a regime can say. There is no comparison between the strategic Al-Faw and the little town of Mehran. Al-Faw was an important Iraqi port and a town linking Iraq to the sea and a number of Arab states.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council went on: Praise be to God, we are today in a position of strength both from the political and military aspects, and our people's readiness is a factor of the Islamic Republic's success and of fear on the part of our enemies. We should continue to maintain this readiness and continue the blows we have struck at the Iraqi regime through Al-Faw because that regime has no more strength to resist.

Commentary on Egypt, Jordan Troops in Mehran Area

LD221252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 May 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On the basis of Central News Unit correspondents reports from Ilam and Bakhtaran, some units of the Egyptian and Jordanian Armed Forces took part in the attack on our Islamic homeland in the Mehran operational theater. It is now only 2 weeks before International Jerusalem Day, so what is the objective of Egyptian and Jordanian military units taking part in the attack against the Islamic city of Mehran? One can understand the meaning of this joint action by Egypt and Jordan if one recalls that these two states joined hands with Israel, handed over Bayt al-Muqaddas to the Zionist enemy, disgraced the Arab nation and betrayed the Islamic ummah. Of course, after the first victorious moments of the Islamic revolution, Egypt and Jordan, leaders of Arab reaction, felt the greater danger as the main supporting pole of colonialism's tent in the region. By provoking Iraq's armed forces to attack the Islamic Republic of Iran on 22 September 1980 they placed their assistance at the disposal of this aggressive regime. The Sudanese armed forces were also directly involved during Numayri's era in supporting the Iraqi regime's aggression against the Islamic homeland of Iran. Apparently that support and involvement ended with Numayri's collapse!

However, today, on the eve of International Jerusalem Day as the Islamic world is preparing itself for the historic ceremonies of this day, the Egyptian and Jordanian forces have joined Iraq. Why are these jackbooted Egyptian and Jordanian forces firing at the chests of Iranian Muslim youths instead of aiming their rifles at the Zionist occupiers? Why are they moving toward Mehran instead of marching toward Bayt al-Muqaddas, the Ghaza strip, Ramallah and Al-Khalij? Why are they supporting Israel's allies instead of supporting the charter of the Islamic

pledge to fight for the liberation of Palestine? Why are they sacrificing themselves for the success of Camp David accords, when even its name is Zionist?

The attack by Egyptian and Jordanian soldiers on such operational sectors as Mehran, on the eve of International Jerusalem Day, demonstrates the fact that the movement of the Iranian nation is right and justified. As the imam of the ummah has graciously said: The way to Jerusalem passes through Karbala'. Without the overthrow of the U.S. puppet regimes and those of global Zionism, that is, the regimes of Iraq, Jordan and Egypt, the Muslims will never have freedom, the nation of Palestine will not witness liberation, and Bayt al-Muqaddas will never see the happy day of victory.

Foreign Ministry: Charges Against UN Envoy Ludicrous

LD221738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Following the allegations made by U.S. police against Raja'i-Khorassani, Iran's representative to the United Nations, and the extensive propaganda conducted by the Western mass media against him, the spokesman of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated:

We have, for some time now, been receiving documented reports that the espionage organization of the United States, the CIA, intends to use certain projects aimed at harming the reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives in various countries throughout the world. This project took the form of accusing the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran of terrorism and of arms smuggling, a topic which in the past has been subjected to extensive propaganda with the assistance of counterrevolutionary mercenaries and through Zionist-affiliated media. But as these accusations kept being repeated in the same form, they lost their effectiveness.

The latest form of the CIA's conspiracy aimed at harming the reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives is the ludicrous and dirty propoganda accusing the representative of Iran to the United Nations of stealing, which happened after the United States failed in its efforts to contact him for the purpose of softening his stances against the United States in the United Nations.

The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry added: Although the United States has formulated and implemented many plots in the political military and propaganda fields against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which fortunately have failed to yield any results, the latest plot is actually a reflection of the height of America's desperation in the face of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves for UN Session

LD222117 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — A political delegation headed by Deputy foreign Minister for International and Economic Affairs Mohammad-Javad Larijani left here Thursday for New York to participate in the extraordinary session of General Assembly of the United Nations.

The May 27-31 session is scheduled to study Africa's economic crisis. Poor economic conditions in Africa has been recently intensified by problems such as foreign debts and famine. In her foreign policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran pays special attention to issues of the African continent.

Further Reportage on Rahmani Visit to Libya

Meets With Military Officers

LD221534 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 22 May 86

[Excerpt] Tripoli, May 22, IRNA — Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani, head of the Basij unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC), Thursday met Colonel Faraj, the Libyan ground forces commander and a group of high ranking military officers in Tripoli. The two sides discussed cooperatin in mobilization and training of the volunteer forces as well as the exchange of experiences in this regard.

Further Reportage on Mo'ayeri Visit to France

Meets With French Assembly Leader

LD220255 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Paris, May 21, IRNA — Visiting Iranian Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri here Wednesday hand delivered a message from speaker of Iran's Majlis (parliament) Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to his French counterpart Jacques Chaban Delmas.

During the meeting the deputy prime minister talked on existing difficulties in Irano-French relations and discussed ways of removing them as well as their expansion. Tehran-Paris relations have been strained over French military support for Iraq in the war as well as a disputed repayment to Iran of a one-billion dollar loan and Paris backing for Iranian terrorist and emigre groups in France.

President of the French National Assembly Mr. Delmas thanked Mr. Mo'ayeri for the message and expressed hope that ties would expand and parlimentarians of the two countries would visit each other's country.

Officials from Iran's Foreign Ministry, Iran's charge d'affaires to Paris Gholam Reza Haddadian and his counterpart to Tehran Pierre LaFrance were also present in the meeting.

Talks Held in 'Friendly Atmosphere'

LD222222 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Paris, May 22, IRNA — Ongoing talks between Iranian and French officials in Paris has progressed well in a friendly atmosphere with the Islamic Republic calling on the Paris government to end support for Iraq and repay its loans. The highest Iranian official to visit Paris since the 1979 Islamic revolution

told reporters here Thursday that Tehran believed there was a change of view in Paris since a new cabinet had come to power there.

Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri said "We feel (French Prime Minister) Mr. Chirac gives particular attention to Iran's strategic position in the region." "We have seen moves that indicate issues can be solved as soon as possible" he said. "Current talks have been conducted in a friendly atmosphere and with understanding."

Mo'ayeri's visit has been viewed as a breakthrough in relations between the two countries that has been strained since the 1979 Islamic revolution. Iran has repeatedly demanded that France should end its military support for Iraq as well as Iranian terrorist organizations in Paris and pay back its one billion dollar. [as received] There was a change of tone in relations between the two countries after two high ranking delegation from the French parliament and Foreign Ministry visited Iran in January and April. "France must prove its neutrality in the imposed Iraqi war and we hope that it will restrain itself from exporting new weapons to Iraq", Mo'ayeri said. France is one of the biggest suppliers of arms to the Iraq that has been at war with Iran for the past five and half years.

On the question of the repayment of a one billion dollar loan to Iran, Mo'ayeri said France should repay the loan with setting any conditions. The loan was given to France by the former Iranian regime for construction work in the French atomic industry. France has since refused to pay back the money.

Referring to the presence of Iranian terror organizations in Paris, Mo'ayeri said he has discussed the issue with French official. "Public opinion in Iran can not accept that people who have killed their children or their political leaders be accepted in France". Members of the terrorist organizations, including the Monafeqin Khalq, fled to Paris after starting a series of bombings and assassinations across Iran that has left hundreds of civilians martyred.

In his three-day visit, Mo'ayeri has held talks with senior officials including the prime minister and members of his cabinet. He was given a red carpet welcome on arrival in Paris that included lines of sabre-carrying republican guards. France became popular with Iranian public opinion when it accepted Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic revolution, at the height of the anti-shah revolution.

Meets Foreign Ministry Officials

GF230510 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Mr Mo'ayeri, the political deputy of our country's prime minister, continued his visit to France with a meeting yesterday afternoon with French Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimond. He gave the French minister a written message from his Iranian counterpart, Mr Velayati. Other high political officials of the French Foreign Ministry also attended the meeting. They discussed bilateral relations and the imposed war.

Yesterday afternoon, the political deputy of the Iranian prime minister also met Mr (Jean Le Canoet), the head of the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission. They discussed bilateral relations and the political situation in the region, as well as U.S. threats against Islamic countries, especially Libya and Syria.

Tehran Turkish on Iraqi Measures to Stem Desertions

GF221348 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] The telephone conversations and the travels of Iraqi troops and officers are now being closely controlled due to the dimension of desertions from the battlefronts. A correspondent of the news agency affiliated to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq has reported from Al-Faw that in an order it issued to the security forces of the Shatt al-'Arab region, the military command in the Al-Basra region demanded that telephone conversations and the travels of unreliable army personnel, particularly the Muslim Kurdish troops, be controlled.

It should be recalled that the activities of the Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries recently have been stepped up, particularly in northern Iraq. Dahuk Province is currently under the siege of the revolutionary Muslims.

Navy Chief Says Training Facilities Improved

LD222301 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — Navy commander Captain Hoseyn Malekzadegan said here Thursday that the Islamic Republic of Iran has advanced in training its own navy officers. Addressing officers in the opening ceremony of the Kuhak barracks he said "Before the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iranian Navy was completely dependent on foreign countries for training of its officers." But after revolution, he added, "We have taken steps in training them inside the country. In this regard, the northern training center was activated with twenty courses."

The Islamic Republic of Iran calls for a non-aligned policy that would free its military, political and industrial organizations from dependence on foreign countries.

This center trains 1200 students for navy each year and also for the other organs of the country, he added. He also said "We train our officers in marine sciences training center of (Nowshahr) which recently started its fifth curriculum."

Tehran Turkish: Final Blow to Iraq Planned

GF221642 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 21 May 86

[Unattributed commentary: "As Defeated Experiences Are Repeated"]

[Text] Dear listeners. The military effectiveness of the achievements in the "Val-Fajr-8" operation is gradually gaining broader dimensions. Relying on the military and material aid it

received from the imperialist West and the puppet regimes in the region, and on the presence of experts in various fields, the Iraqi regime, prior to the "Val-Fajr-8" operation, had said that the Iraqi fronts made up a strong, impregnable castle. Judging by the military might at the disposal of the Iraqi regime, international imperialism believed this. All this moved them to increase the pressure brought to bear on the Islamic Republic of Iran and further increase the aid given to the Iraqi regime with a view to preventing the achievement of victory by one of the sides in the Persian Gulf war.

However, the liberation of Al-Faw, which is a strategic port city, meant the destruction of the strong castle the Iraqi regime believed was impregnable. Western experts remained bewildered for a long time by the liberation of the castle which the experts of the United States and the Zionist regime believed to be impenetrable. After an assessment of Iran's military power, Western media organs linked Iran's might to the surprise attack of the Iranian forces, the use of a large number of men, and the unprecedented resistance on the part of the Iranian forces. Nevertheless, during the past 2 weeks the imperialists have been persistently trying to present the defeat suffered by Iraq as insignificant in order to raise the morale of the Iraqi troops.

The effort made by Western circles to present the liberation of Al-Faw as insignificant, the propaganda on the dispatching of modern arms to Iraq, the lowering of oil prices, and the U.S. threats in the military, political, and economic fields are related to the same imperialist objective. They are all designed to lessen the effects of the victories achieved by Iran during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations. Heeding recommendations made by military experts from the West, including those affiliated with the puppet regimes in the region, the Iraqi regime recently employed tactics already tested in the past. Its use of such tactics, which resulted in many defeats, has proved that the Iraqi regime cooperates very closely with the imperialists. However, the direction they have chosen will bring about their fall at a quicker pace through the consecutive defeats they will suffer.

The wide-ranging attack the Iraqi regime launched last week with an unprecedented variety of military hardware has resulted in a complete defeat. Many Iraqi officers and men were either killed or wounded, in addition to an innumerable number of tanks and helicopters destroyed. The defeats suffered by the Iraqi regime in [words indistinct], Mehran, [words indistinct], and Hajj 'Umran regions came with heavy losses. The outcome of all the effort made was empty propaganda and premature congratulations.

Undoubtedly, this untimely attack placed the Iraqi regime's forces in a very difficult position. The absence of adequate manpower, which the Iraqi regime's forces have been suffering from for a long time, has become serious due to these latest attacks. On the other hand, the movement of volunteer groups in Iran toward the battlefronts within the Karbala' convoys is continuing. Apart from this, the Islamic forces have the strength required to defeat the military moves of the Iraqi forces in all sectors of the battlefronts and at all times. The chaos created among the ranks of the Iraqi regime's forces because of their latest attacks has given an opportunity to the Islamic fighters to deal the final blow. The latest defeat suffered by the Iraqi regime not only has had a negative effect on the Iraqi troops but also crushed the confidence the supporters of that regime had in the Iraqi Armed Forces.

With the great success it has achieved in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, and due to the latest defeat suffered by the Iraqi regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran is now capable of dealing the final blow. When the time comes, the Islamic Republic of Iran will be ready to teach a lesson to international imperialism and to the puppet regimes in the region — a lesson which they will not forget. This may be the final warning. In the event of such a state of affairs, they will not be able to use their past experiences again.

All the attempts made to prevent final defeat will sooner or later end up in the defeat of international imperialism and the Iraqi regime once again. This is due to the fact that there is a force that determines the outcome of [words indistinct] — that is the faith of the Muslim Iranian people which does not exist in the Iraqi regime's forces and which international imperialism cannot understand.

12 Iraqi VIII Army Corps Officers Executed

LD220318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] According to a report of the Central News Unit, 12 officers — captains and majors — belonging to the Iraqi VIII Army Corps in the Al-Faw operational sector were hanged because they opposed their commanders. Reports received from Iraq state: The increase in opposition by the Iraqi military is intensifying day by day.

According to this same report, all the officers of the central intelligence unit of the Iraqi VII Army Corps have been arrested because they failed to gain advance knowledge of the attack of the combatants of Islam on Al-Faw. This is occuring at a time when the Iraqi VII Army Corps has already changed commanders several times following the start of the "Val-Fajr-8" offensive.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Commando Offensive Halted

LD221240 Tehran IRNA in English 1138 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Ahvaz, May 22, IRNA — Iraqi commandos from the fourth corps stationed in Faqqeh region suffered heavy casualties when their attempted advance in the region failed and Iran's Muslim combatants went on the offensive. The "last of the 'Abi-Abidah' commandos were destroyed or forced to retreat from the area," a military source said here Thursday. The Iraqi attack had come with support from mechanized units from the first and tenth divisions and aimed at capturing heights overlooking the region.

Iran's artillery units gave a distinguished performance in halting Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers during the battle. The source

said: "This has been a lesson for the enemy not to dream about attacking Islamic forces again."

The new battlefield arrangement puts Iraqi positions west of Chazabeh in the Sha'eb pass under direct Iranian shelling. Earlier this month Iraqi troops advanced in the area. The troops included units of the Abi-Abidah commando unit plus supporting units from the third and sixth corps.

Faqqeh was first captured by Iraqi forces in their initial offensive on Iran in September 1980 when they bypassed the town and went west towards the cities of Shush and Dezful. The region fell into Iranian hands in the 1982 Fath al-Mubin offensive when large sections of the southern Khuzestan Province was purged of the Iraqi army. Faqqeh is between the heights of Reqabeyeh and Abu-Qurayb. The heights of Shamkali and Sheykh-Qandi are to its north.

War between the two countries started when Iraqi leadership took advantage of Iran's post revolutionary chaos and sought to extend its coast line with the Persian Gulf by annexing parts of southern Iran.

Iraq Shells Residential Area

LD221437 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — Iraqi artillery Wednesday shelled residential areas of Nowdesheh in Bakhtaran Province, martyring and wounding 10 people. The shelling took place at 13:30 (10:00 GMT) and left three martyrs and seven wounded.

Despite a U.N. sponsored agreement between the two warring countries in June 1984 on restraint in bombardment of residential areas, Iraq has been raiding civilian targets.

Iraqis Flee Faqqeh

LD221801 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the joint operational center for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces, noting the recent victories by the warriors of Islam in the Faqqeh operational zone, has issued a communique:

Following the recent offensives in the Faqqeh operational zone by the forces of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime in Iraq, the Islamic forces, carrying out advanced tactical movements and executing intense heavy weaponry fire, last night, made the Ba'thist enemy flee the operational zone. The enemy had been completely beseiged. In the process of pushing back the enemy, many kilometers of the occupied areas near Faqqeh were cleansed of the filth of the defeated Ba'thist elements. Also, during the ensuing chase of enemy forces, the Islamic forces succeeded in pushing the infidel forces of Saddam tens of kilometers beyond their previous positions, so much so that the enemy is now stationed on its own territory opposite Faqqeh.

During the engagements last night and this morning, the Islamic forces hoisted the green flag of Muhammadan Islam throughout the 390 kilometers of the strategic region of Faqqeh where they have been positioned. The valiant forces of Islam's army, in the course of repelling the Iraqi forces, inflicted heavy casualties on 1st Mechanized, 34th Armored, 27th Mechanized and 57th Mixed Brigades of the First Army Corps of the defeated Iraqi Armed Forces. They killed or injured more than 2,000 enemy forces, destroying or capturing intact a large quantity of enemy equipment.

Communique No 2,478

LD221947 Tehran IRNA in English 1925 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — Iran's jet fighters bombarded armoured and infantry positions of the Iraqi Army in Mehran at 05:05 and 16:40 hours local time (0135 and 1310 GMT) Thursday. After inflicting heavy casualties and damages, Iranian bomber fighters returned to their bases safely, according to a military communique Thursday.

The Communique Number 2478 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iranian Muslim combatants shelled Wednesday Iraqi bunkers in northwestern fronts killing and wounding Iraqi soldiers. It added that some 30 tanks and personnel carriers of the enemy were destroyed and a munitions depot set ablaze.

In western operational regions, the communique said, Muslim fighters of Iran downed two Iraqi copters and destroyed five bunkers and observation posts as well as several vehicles of the defeated enemy, killing or wounding numerous Iraqi troops.

In Mehran, the Iranian Muslim combatants prevented Iraqi movements in heights of Zalvaab and Ganjan-cham, inflicting considerable losses and damage on the enemy, according to the Joint Staff.

The communique said that the Muslim combatants of Iran checked and shelled Iraqi movements of vehicle columns throughout northwestern, western and southern operational regions as a result of which heavy losses and damage were inflicted on Ba'thist forces.

In Dehloran fronts, Iran's Gendarmerie forces sent patrol units, established observation posts and shelled Iraqi positions as a result of which enemy sustained damage and casualties, according to the communique. Meanwhile, the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, was subjected to Iraqi long-range artillery fire.

Heights Captured; Helicopters Downed

LD231157 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters joint operational center for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces (IRI), in the wake of shining victories by the warriors of Islam in various operational zones, particularly those of Faqqeh and Hajj 'Umran, last night and this morning, the Islamic combatants

attacking the positions of the Zionist forces of the Iraqi regime, succeeded in capturing and hoisting the green flag of the Mohammadan Army over difficult and strategic terrain of Heights 2435, situated 15 km inside Iraqi territory and beyond the Hajj 'Umran operational zone.

Further, the Islamic warriors, during the same operations, succeeded in wiping out a large number of the Zionist enemy personnel, killing or injuring more than 800, and capturing others, out of whom 70 asked for asylum from the IRI.

Two enemy helicopters were targeted and downed by the Islamic warriors, thus increasing the total figure of downed helicopters of the Zionist enemy in this operational zone since the beginning of the recent engagements a few days ago to 34.

During the operations last night and early this morning, a large quantity of the enemy's equipment and light and heavy hardware were either destroyed or captured intact by the Islamic combatants.

The defendents of the Islamic Revolution now are positioned throughout the operational zone of Hajj 'Umran and the posi tions liberated during the past few days, and have total control over any movement by the Zionist enemy.

Tehran: Moscow Controls DRA Media Programming

LD221714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Afghanistan's television has become a part of a radio and television organization under the supervision of the USSR. Therefore, the Soviet Government from now on will be in full control of the radio and television programs of Afghanistan. With this project, programs that will be prepared in Moscow will be relayed via satellite throughout Afghanistan. In order to advance this project, up to now six television transmitter stations have been set up in Ghazni, Jalalabad, Qandahar, Herat and Badakhshan. IRNA, which reported this, adds: At present, the programs of Afghanistan's television are prepared in Kabul and are then relayed via satellite to Moscow for approval.

Correction to Opposition Criticism of U.S. Policy

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Opposition Paper Criticizes U.S. Policy Towards Regime," published in the 22 May South Asia *DAILY REPORT*, page I 7, paragraph three, from line 4:

...and they have not heard a single roar against them. All preliminaries about... (adding word "not")